L 2901

AMBASSADOR

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
BRUSSELS

16 November 1990

Mr L Tindemans
Co-President of the
ACP-EEC Joint Assembly

Dear President,

I refer to your letter of 17 October conveying the text of a "Resolution on the Situation on East Timor" passed on 27 September at the Luxembourg session of the ACP-EC Joint Assembly. As requested in your letter, the resolution was passed to the Australian Government, which has asked me to make the following points in reply.

- It is regrettable that the Assembly should have sought to condemn the Timor Gap Treaty which is a bilateral agreement between two countries, neither of which are members of the ACP/EEC.

- The East Timor issue relates to a dispute between Portugal and Indonesia, to which Australia is not a party. Australia has consistently supported discussions between Portugal and Indonesia under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary General to seek to resolve the issue. This is of course a matter separate to the Timor Gap Treaty.

- Australia rejects absolutely any inference that the Timor Gap Treaty is in breach of international law. In particular, Australia does not accept that any oil or gas which may be found in the Timor Gap Treaty area belongs to the people of East Timor.

- Australia has consistently claimed sovereign rights over seabed resources of the entire treaty area as being the natural northward prolongation of Australia's continental shelf. We have never conceded that any sovereign rights over seabed resources appertaining to the land mass of East Timor in fact extend into the treaty area.

- The Treaty provides only a provisional regime for petroleum operations and does not establish a permanent seabed boundary. Subject to the treaty, Australia continues to claim sovereign rights over the seabed resources of the entire treaty area.

- Finally, in relation to the question of human rights, Australia's concern that internationally accepted standards of human rights be universally observed is well known. The Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Senator Evans, has regularly raised the issue of human rights in East Timor with his Indonesian counterpart, Mr Alatas.

I would be grateful if you would bring this response to the attention of the Assembly.

AP/313/Ann.

Yours sincerely,

NOTA

Em resposta à resolução aprovada na Assembleia Paritária ACP-CEE em 27 de Setembro de 1990 (Luxemburgo) a Embaixada da Austrália em Bruxelas enviou aos Co-Presidentes da Assembleia, que a circularam pelos membros, a carta junta.

O que motivou a pergunta junta, do Deputado do PCP José Barros Moura, ao Conselho e aos MNE no quadro da Cooperação Política.

Estrasburgo, 19.02.91

PARLAMENTO EUROPEU

FICHA PARA APRESENTAÇÃO DE UMA PERGUNTA PARLAMENTAR (*)

Pergunta oral com debate (art. 42)	☐	DESTINATÁRIO	
Pergunta oral sem debate (art. 43)	☐	Comissão das Comunidades Europeias	—
Período de perguntas (art. 44)	☐	Conselho das Comunidades Europeias	X
Pergunta escrita (art. 46)	☒	Ministros reunidos no âmbito da cooperação política	—
Pergunta (art. 25/2)	☐	Presidente	—

AUTOR(ES):

José Barros Moura (Coligação de Esquerda)

ASSUNTO:
(especificar)

Partilha do petróleo de Timor-Leste pela Indonésia e Austrália

TEXTO (**):

Em carta de 16.11.90 dirigida aos Co-Presidentes da Assembleia Paritária ACP-CEE , a propósito da Resolução de 27.09.90 desta Assembleia (JO C 27, 4.2.91,P.45), o embaixador da Australia em Bruxelas afirma textualmente" (...) Australia does not accept that any oil or gas wich may be found in the Timor Gap Treaty area belongs to the people of East Timor". Se calhar pertence à Indonésia que ocupa ilegalmente e pela força Timor-Leste, e com quem a Austrália assinou o Tratado?! Aliás, se fosse como diz, para quê tal Tratado?

Que medidas já tomaram os MNE no quadro da cooperação política, e o Conselho, em conformidade com as sucessivas resoluções do PE com vista a fazer cessar uma tão escandalosa violação dos direitos do povo de Timor-Leste?

Assinatura(s):
(vide também verso)

José Barros Moura

Data:

19.02.91

(*) Completar à máquina e enviar ao Sr. Berthold KÜSTER, Chefe da divisão do Estatuto do Deputado, Edifício Schuman, gabinete 121 — Luxemburgo.
(**) Limites: 10 linhas para o «Período de Perguntas» (art. 44); 25 linhas para as perguntas orais (art. 42 e 43) e perguntas escritas (art. 46) — (Decisões da Mesa Alargada de 25 e 26 de Fevereiro de 1986)